



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday - October 11, 2007

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**ARIZONA, NEVADA AND PINELLAS COUNTY**  
**MARIJUANA SMUGGLING RING INDICTED**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tampa - FL     U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt, Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats, Special Agent in Charge Mark R. Trouville, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Special Agent in Charge Robert W. Weber, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging nine individuals with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute one thousand kilograms or more of marijuana. Law enforcement officers made arrests yesterday and today in Arizona, Nevada and Pinellas County. Those arrested in Pinellas County will have their initial appearance today in federal court in Tampa. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum term of up to life imprisonment. The indictment was returned on September 25, 2007.

The indictment alleges the defendants have been operating this smuggling operation for more than three years. Investigators believe as much as 8,000 pounds were moved from Arizona to Pinellas County during that three-year period.

This investigation is being conducted by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Also assisting with the investigation were the St. Petersburg Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives(ATF), the Tucson and Gainesville DEA, and the Las Vegas Metro High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

Defendant	DOB	Residence
Arturo SANTOS-Granados	4/10/81	Arizona
Rafael SANTOS-Granados	5/16/86	Arizona
Mercedes REBON-Granados	1/25/79	Arizona
Maria Concepcion GRANADOS-Gutierrez aka "Concha"	11/30/57	Arizona
Maurice Cesar HEMINGWAY aka "Fry," aka "Wycleef"	1/28/78	Pinellas County, FL
Antwan CUMMINGS aka "Tony," aka "Trigger"	11/24/76	Pinellas County, FL
DERECK LANE aka "D," aka "D-Lane"	6/14/76	Pinellas County, FL
Frederick J. HUTSON aka "Fred"	3/28/84	Las Vegas, NV
Aaron C. GEORGE aka "Dread"	2/11/84	Pinellas County, FL

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